

**Council on Postsecondary Education
Committee on Equal Opportunities
August 20, 2001**

**Equal Opportunity Planning
Adult Education in Kentucky - Opportunities for Collaboration**

In the year 2020, we envision a community-focused adult education system in which communities embrace life-long learning, and take responsibility for meeting their own learning needs.

- Public and private partnerships help communities to meet education goals.
- Resources for life-long learning are available for everyone.
- Pathways to educational advancement are clear and achievable.
- Attainment of educational goals is recognized and rewarded.
- Adult educators are devoted to meeting the needs of a diverse learner community and are well equipped with varied techniques.
- Literacy goals are achieved efficiently through partnerships and collaboration.
- Adult education is available, accessible, affordable, and accountable.

In accomplishing this vision, Kentucky will be a Commonwealth in which:

- A culture of learning is valued in the family and in the workplace.
- Children are successful in school and advance through the system.
- The workforce is well trained, knowledgeable, and confident.
- Citizens are knowledgeable about their health and well being.

Kentucky will become more literate and economically viable as more adults are actively engaged in life-long learning. We will increase the proportion of Kentuckians served in adult education programs from five percent of those needing help (50,000 learners) to 30 percent (300,000 learners) by achieving the following:

- Year 2000-01: 6 percent or 60,000 people
- Year 2001-02: 7.5 percent, or 75,000 people
- Year 2002-03: 9 percent, or 90,000 people
- Year 2003-04: 10 percent, or 100,000 people
- Year 2010: 30 percent of the target population, or 300,000 people

Adult education will focus on family literacy and workplace learning. We will concentrate on helping people learn basic skills so they can help their children succeed in school, do their jobs, and achieve economic self-sufficiency.

ADULT EDUCATION ACTION PLAN

Public Communications Plan

The campaign consists of three phases. Phase one began in May with “Go GED” rallies in Lexington and Louisville targeting 17,000 Kentuckians who have taken the GED, but have not passed all sections of the test. Phase two begins in September focusing on literacy and the importance of postsecondary education and life long learning. Phase three urges middle and high school students to stay in school.

Red7e and their public relations partner Guthrie/Mayes are developing the campaign along with the assistance of an oversight committee and a group of campaign partners. One million dollars of adult education trust funds help support the campaign built on “Education Pays.”

Results of the campaign show an increase in GED test takers statewide. Six test sites have been added to accommodate the increased need.

New Opportunity Grants

New Opportunity Grants fund model adult education programs that are replicable in other localities or serve as statewide delivery models. Nine grants totaling one million dollars were awarded in spring 2001.

Economic Development and Workforce Training Matching Program

Convenient, accessible workplace education coupled to occupational need is the goal of this initiative. The program is guided by the Workforce Alliance, a collaborative committee representing the Department for Adult Education and Literacy, the Council on Postsecondary Education, the Kentucky Community and Technical College System, the Economic Development Cabinet, and the Workforce Development Cabinet. The Alliance is a responsive, coordinated system designed to stimulate workforce partnerships with business and industry. The goal of the alliance is to serve 24,000 workers through basic skills and technical training offered by distance learning education and on-site training.

Professional Development

A statewide professional development plan will train more than 800 current full- and part-time educators to serve an increasing number of adult learners. Implementation of the plan will be coordinated by:

- The Adult Education Academy for Professional Development located at Morehead State University.
- The Collaborative Center for Literacy Development located at the University of Kentucky.
- The Kentucky Institute for Family Literacy located with the National Center for Family Literacy, Louisville.

These entities will work closely with Kentucky's postsecondary education institutions, Kentucky Educational Television, and the Department for Adult Education and Literacy. As part of this plan, four regional institutes will prepare 120 adult educators (one per county) annually to teach reading. Upon completion, these instructors will be designated "lead reading instructors." Total allocation for the plan is \$1,358,491 for 2001-02.

Tuition Discounts and Employer Tax Credits

Tuition discounts up to \$1,000 are provided to full-time employees who complete a high school equivalency diploma program within one year. Tax credits up to \$1,250 are available to businesses that assist their employees with this goal. This program begins July 2001.

Statewide Competency-Based Certification for Workplace Skills

Adult learners enrolled in adult education programs have access to two skills assessment instruments to measure competencies related to workplace skills. The Kentucky Manufacturing Skills Standards assesses skills related to manufacturing jobs. ACT WorkKeys compares the skills needed to perform a job with the skills an individual possesses in mathematics, locating information, and reading for information. These areas are scored according to the skills needed in occupations contained in ACT's WorkKeys database of over 6,000 job profiles. Programs will continue to use the Test of Adult Basic Education for placement and enrollment purposes.

Statewide Information Technology and Distance Learning

A first for the nation, the Kentucky Virtual University and Virtual Library will provide a centralized Web-based system for adult educators and learners. A resource hub for adult educators will provide 32 databases, 4,000 journals, and links to 1,500 participating libraries. Adult education on KYVU/VL hosts Web-based curriculum products such as WIN, PLATO, and NCS LEARN, which include assessment and testing components; are aligned to WorkKeys and other standardized tests; and include reading, writing, math, science, social studies, life skills, and work skills. Learners may use the Web site 24 hours a day, 365 days a year at no cost. The KYVU supports threaded discussion forums, chatrooms, email and listserves, whiteboards, shared-browser software, and streaming audio and video. On-line registration, call center, reference librarians, technical support, and record keeping are core services available to learners.

Family Literacy

As of July 2001, funding for family literacy programs is available in every county in Kentucky. Four million dollars are earmarked for family literacy, allocated by formula based on educational need. The goal is to break the cycle of undereducation and poverty by increasing family literacy enrollment and participation to 5,000 families by 2004.

Rewards and Performance

Rewards

To qualify for a reward, adult education programs must meet or exceed annual enrollment goals and a percentage of the key indicators of performance. It is anticipated that 75 adult education providers will share \$700,000 dollars in reward funds.

Performance

Title II, Section 212 of the Workforce Investment Act requires a state adult education and literacy comprehensive performance accountability system. To measure the success of adult education and literacy programs, key indicators have been developed to address five critical questions:

1. Are more Kentuckians participating in adult education programs?
2. Are these adult learners meeting their education goals?
3. Are more adult learners advancing on to postsecondary education?
4. Are more adult learners being prepared for the continually changing workplace?
5. Are Kentucky's communities and economy benefiting?